

## Activities of Team North and West Africa of Delphy in Tunisia

### *Background*

North Africa has a high priority for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands. One of the focus countries in North-Africa is Tunisia, as it is politically and economically unstable and that leads to migration to Europe.

Tunisia is currently highly dependent on food imports, since it does not produce enough food to feed its own population. The growing population in Tunisia has not gone hand in hand with agricultural production. This has led to more food imports.

One of the biggest problems in these countries is high unemployment, especially among young people. 25% of youth aged between 15 and 24 are neither in employment, nor in education or training. Especially, the transition from school to work is difficult. This leads to a migration from the countryside to the cities. In order to offer the inhabitants of the countryside more security of existence, it is necessary to develop agriculture. That provides more food security and more work.

In order to promote agricultural growth and employment in agriculture, it is needed to improve the employability of TVET graduates in the agricultural sector in Tunisia. By strengthening teacher trainings programmes, the gap between the knowledge and skills that graduates have and the knowledge and skills jobs in the agricultural sector require, can be bridged and thereby the employability of TVET graduates improved.



Field visit to a saline farmer in the North of Tunisia.

### *Activities of team North and West Africa of Delphy in Tunisia*

In order to strengthen teacher training programmes, Delphy has executed two projects and is executing one project with agricultural TVETs in Tunisia.

Within the first project, Delphy trained teachers and staff of three TVETs (LSFPAAV Bouchérik, CFPA Ben Arous, CSFPA Chott Mariem), one institution (INPFCA Sidi Thabet) and one private sector company (Mabrouka). The teachers and staff were trained on both content as knowledge transfer. The main focus of the training was climate smart and saline agriculture, and protected cultivation. Topics such as soil fertility, post-harvest management and sustainable innovations were touched upon. In order to foster experimental learning a demonstration plot and greenhouse were established. To cope with travel restrictions due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the trainings were provided blended.

In November 2021, the project was finalized by an one-week study tour to the Netherlands. Within the study tour, multiple farms, research locations and private sector companies were visited.

The project was a collaboration between Delphy, The Salt Doctors, iCRA and AVFA (Agence de Vulgarisation et de Formation Agricoles). The project was financed through the Orange Knowledge Programme of Nuffic.



L: Demonstration greenhouse established as part of the project. R: Ten participants were selected to join an one-week study tour to the Netherlands, amongst others the research location of Delphy for protected cultivation was visited.

Secondly, Delphy trained teachers and staff of three TVETs (CSFPA Chott Mariem, LSFPAAV Bouchérik, CFPA Sidi Bouzid) and agricultural representatives on entrepreneurship, climate smart agriculture and greenhouse cultivation. Moreover, knowledge transfer was an important theme within the training programme. To practice what we preach, multiple trainings were provided blended.

A demonstration greenhouse was established and cucumbers were installed to showcase practices throughout the cultivation cycle.

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L: Digging a profile pit to examine soil properties. R: Demonstration greenhouse established within the project, just after transplanting the cucumber seedlings.

Thirdly, Delphy is training teachers and staff of five TVETs (CFPA El Alia, CFPAF Rimel, CFPAF Zerkine, CFPAF Manouba) and two institutions (Synagri & INPFCA). The trainers and staff are trained on all aspects of open field, protected and hydroponics cultivation. Within open field cultivation, climate smart and saline agriculture are the main topics. Also, the participants are trained on entrepreneurship, knowledge transfer and blended learning.

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L & R: Demonstration greenhouse and hydroponics systems established as part of the project.

Currently, Delphy is also preparing the launch of a settlement in Tunisia; Delphy Tunisia, in order to expand its activities. Are you interested in working with Delphy in Tunisia or do you want to know more about the activities of Delphy in Tunisia? Contact the country coordinator Lotte Demmink via [l.demmink@delphy.nl](mailto:l.demmink@delphy.nl).